

Message Text

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SUBJ: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND IFAD

SUMMARY. MEETING WITH ROME REPRESENTATIVES 18 DECEMBER, DR. HANNAH ATTEMPTED TO BRIDGE THE COMMUNICATIONS GAP BETWEEN THEM AND WFC SECRETARIAT, BUT HE ALSO URGED CLOSER CONTACT BETWEEN COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES IN ROME AND IN NEW YORK IN ORDER THAT LATTER MIGHT BE MORE ALERT TO MATTERS OF INTEREST TO WFC AND ITS "SUPPORTING" MEMBERS. SPECIFIC SUBJECTS INCLUDED DEVELOPMENTS AT UNGA, THE BUDGET, PLANS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS FO THE COUNCILAND PREPARATORY GROUP, WORKING GROUP ON RULES AND PRODEDURES, IFAD THIRD MEETING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES AND PLENIPOTENTIARY SESSION. HANNAH INDICATED DESIRE FOR MEETING OF THE ROME GROUP ROUGHLY ONCE A MONTH AND IT WAS AGREED THAT ONE BE ARRANGED FOR LATE JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

1. REPORTING ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NEW YORK FROM WHICH HE HAD RETURNED RECENTLY, DR. HANNAH INDICATED THAT ACTIONS TAKEN BY 2ND AND 5TH COMMITTEES AND UNGA CONFIRMED POSITIVE ROLE OF WFC AND MADE IT POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM A SERIES OF PLANS. ROAD HAD NOT BEEN SMOOTH, WITH SOME PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERIM DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE BUDGET (E.G., DECISION OF

ACABQ, FOLLOWING DECISION OF NEW FAO-DG TO ASSURE BUDGET SUPPORT ONLY THROUGH JUNE TO REDUCE BUDGET TO A POINT WHERE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR SECRETARIAT TO CARRY OUT GUIDANCE GIVEN IT BY MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL). IT WAS LARGELY IN THIS CONNECTION THAT

HE STRESSED NEED FOR DELEGATIONS, AS WELL AS THE SECRETARIATS, IN THE TWO SITES TO BE FULLY CONVERSANT WITH INTERACTING POSITIONS, AND

EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE WORK OF ONE DELIGATION IN PARTICULAR IN STRAIGHTENING OUT THE BUDGETARY ISSUE. IN VIEW OF BUDGETARY ARRANGEMENTS, FOLLOWING CAN NOW BE CONFIRMED:

A. SECOND MEETING OF COUNCIL IN ROME JUNE 14-16 WITH A PREPARATORY MEETING MAY 10-14. WORKING GROUP ON RULES AND PROCEDURES JANUARY 19-23.

B. IFAD. THIRD MEETING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES, JANUARY 26 UNTIL THE WORK IS COMPLETED, IF NECESSARY UNTIL FEBRUARY 6. THE TENTATIVE AND VERY PROVISIONAL DATES FOR PLENIPOTENTIARY MEETING IS TWO DAYS BETWEEN MARCH 22 AND 27.

C. ARABIC IS NOW AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AND WILL BE SO TREATED BEGINNING WITH THIRD MEETING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES.

2. RE UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS, HANNAH INDICATED REVISED DRAFT AGENDA WOULD BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY. PREPARATORY MEETING SHOULD HANDLE FULL AGENDA AND LEAVE FOR THE MINISTERS ONLY MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH HE IDENTIFIED AS PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY. MINISTERS MEETING WOULD BE ARRANGED TO PROMOTE DISCUSSION AND AVOID SPEECH MAKING.

3. RE POSSIBILITY OF LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES MEETING PRIOR TO STARTING OF FULL MEETING OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON IFAD, HANNAH INDICATED THAT DID NOT AT PRESENT SEEM POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS IN THE COMMITTEE ITSELF, BUT THAT SITUATION CONCEIVABLY COULD CHANGE IN JANUARY WHEN SITUATION REGARDING CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD CLEAR UP. (HE SAID LATEST WORD FROM MAREI WAS THAT CONVERSATIONS WERE GOING REASONABLY WELL). VOLPE

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